



Virginia Department of Veterans Services: Veterans Education Training and Employment

# Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)

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Operations Manager

October 6, 2015



# VMSDEP



**Virginia Department of Veterans Services: Veterans Education Training and Employment**

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VMSDEP is a Commonwealth of Virginia program which provides education benefits to survivors and dependents of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became permanently and totally disabled or at least 90 percent disabled as a result of active duty military service



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A Veteran's 90-100% disability must have been directly caused by the Veteran's involvement in:

1) military operations against terrorism; 2) a peacekeeping mission; 3) a terrorist act; 4) an armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941.

The service connected disability cannot have been incurred during active duty that coincides with, but was not the direct result of, one of the listed events/missions.



# Eligibility Requirements



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- Eligibility requirements for VMSDEP benefits are set forth in §[23-7.4:1](#)
- The Applicant must have been admitted to a public (state) institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia



# Eligibility Requirements



## Virginia Department of Veterans Services: Veterans Education Training and Employment

- The Veteran must have:
  - Entered active duty military service as a domiciliary of Virginia
  - Have been a bona fide domiciliary of Virginia bona fide domiciliary of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to
  - or has had a physical presence in Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted by or on behalf the applicant; AND



# Eligibility Requirements



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- The Veteran must have:
  - Been killed
  - Missing in action
  - Taken prisoner
  - Permanently and totally disabled
  - or at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military operations against terrorism, a peacekeeping mission, terrorist act, or any armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941



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# Benefits Provided

- Tuition and Fee(s) Waiver
  - Stipend





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# How To Apply? Visit

[www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)







# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Veterans Services  
Veterans Education, Training and Employment  
Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program*



Annie Walker  
Director

Telephone: (804) 225-2083  
Fax: (804) 786-0809

## MEMORANDUM

TO: {MANUALLY INSERT SCHOOL CONTACT NAME AND TITLE}  
{MANUALLY INSERT SCHOOL NAME}

FROM: Annie Walker

DATE: September 22, 2015

SUBJECT: VMSDEP Eligibility

By this memo, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) certifies that the below named student is eligible for educational benefits (a waiver of tuition and required fees) under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). The statutory provisions of the VMSDEP are spelled out in §23-7.4:1 of the Code of Virginia.

Your stipend will be based on the anticipated number of eligible students and your anticipated cost of attendance as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the school's Financial Aid Office. If funding is available, students who have not used their full annual stipend eligibility amount during the fall and spring terms may receive the award during the summer term based on enrollment level. Please contact your school's Financial Aid Office if you have any questions regarding stipend funding.

### QUALIFIED STUDENT

NAME: {Last Name, First Name M.I.}

SS#: XXX-XX-{Last 4 of SSN}

ADDRESS: {Complete Home Address}

[www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

{MANUALLY INSERT SCHOOL CONTACT NAME AND TITLE}

{MANUALLY INSERT SCHOOL NAME}

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BENEFITS-



**[FALL 2015; SPRING 2016; FALL 2016; SPRING 2017; FALL 2017; SPRING 2018; FALL 2018; SPRING 2019] SESSIONS WHICH WILL PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY 36 MONTHS [4.25 ACADEMIC YEARS] OF BENEFITS UNDER THIS PROGRAM; THEREFORE THIS STUDENT WILL HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL ENTITLEMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF [SPRING 2019] SESSION.**

With regard to the administration and application of the VMSDEP entitlement, no action from the student is required if there are no enrollment changes from academic year to academic year for the duration of the authorization period.

ACTIONS REQUIRED BY THE STUDENT- STUDENTS MUST NOTIFY THE VMSDEP OFFICE IN WRITING OF ALL CHANGES IN ENROLLMENT FOR PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THIS BENEFIT. THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING THE VMSDEP OFFICE FOR ALL CHANGES IN ENROLLMENT (I.E. SWITCHING COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES, ATTENDING MORE THAN ONE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN ANY GIVEN SEMESTER AND/OR ACADEMIC YEAR, OR REQUESTS FOR CHANGES IN AUTHORIZED SEMESTERS, INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION). THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES (DVS) OR PARTICIPATING COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TUITION CHARGES INCURRED BY A STUDENT DUE TO THE STUDENT NOT PROVIDING CURRENT INFORMATION REGARDING ENROLLMENT. IF BENEFIT UPDATES ARE NOT PROVIDED IN A TIMELY MANNER BY THE STUDENT, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AUTHORIZATION OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR SEMESTERS THAT HAVE ENDED. IF SUMMER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS DESIRED, PLEASE CONTACT THE VMSDEP OFFICE FOR A RECALCULATION OF BENEFITS. SUMMER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WILL CHANGE THE SEMESTERS OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER THIS PROGRAM. THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WILL PROVIDE BENEFITS AS NECESSARY ACCORDING TO THE MOST CURRENT VMSDEP AUTHORIZATION UNLESS THE STUDENT MAKES ENROLLMENT CHANGES OR DOES NOT ATTEND AN AUTHORIZED SEMESTER.

IF THERE IS AN ACADEMIC SUSPENSION THE SCHOOL WILL NOTIFY OUR OFFICE.

cc: student – {Last Name, First Name}



# VMSDEP Stipend



- Based on available funding, VMSDEP benefits include a stipend to offset other educational expenses such as room/board and books/supplies
- Limited to a total of 4 years combined for undergraduate and graduate programs (years need not be consecutive)
- Goes hand in hand with the tuition and fee waiver
- Awarded based on a priority system (for details see <http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetVMSDEP.asp>)



# VMSDEP Stipend



- Current maximum authorized stipend is \$1,800
- For highest priority student, funding is expected to be sufficient for a 2015-16 maximum award of \$1,800, with term amounts as follows:

## Credit Hours as of census date (end of add/drop)

Enrollment Level	Undergraduate	Graduate	Term Amount
Full-Time	12+	9+	\$900
3/4-Time	9-11	7-8	\$675
Half-time	6-8	5-6	\$450
< Half-time	1-5	1-4	\$225



# VMSDEP Stipend



- Available for credit-bearing courses only (noncredit courses, including courses taken for audit, ineligible for stipend funding)
- Student does not have to be in a degree-seeking program
- Student does not have to be meeting federal satisfactory academic progress requirements
- If funds are available, summer stipends may be made
  - If made, students not awarded their full annual award during fall/spring may receive stipends based on summer enrollment level or remaining eligibility, whichever is less
  - Subject to year-end processing cutoff dates



# VMSDEP Stipend



- Student may receive stipend through 1 institution only
  - If student is enrolled concurrently at multiple institutions and there is a formal consortium agreement, amount is based on combined enrollment
  - If no formal consortium agreement, amount is based and disbursed on the higher level of enrollment
  - Student remains eligible for the tuition and fee waiver even if enrolled at multiple institutions



# VMSDEP Stipend



- The stipend amount, when combined with “other scholarships, grants, and waivers” (athletic or academic scholarships, tuition waivers, veteran's benefits, etc.) cannot exceed the student’s cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, etc.)
- If the student withdraws from college, the stipend is prorated by a percentage equivalent to institution’s tuition refund policy
- If the student is allowed to retroactively drop courses after the census date, the stipend amount is recalculated based on the current number of enrolled credit hours



# VMSDEP Stipend



- Student submits application for benefits to DVS
- DVS reviews application and determines eligibility
- DVS provides verification letter to student and institution
- DVS sends a master roster of eligible students (and subsequent updates) to SCHEV





# VMSDEP Stipend



- SCHEV sends stipend roster to individual institutions, requesting information about receipt of DVS authorization notice, class level, credit hours, stipend amount, and graduation status for each student
- Institution returns completed roster to SCHEV
- SCHEV disburses funds to the institution
- Institution notifies SCHEV if student withdraws or drops courses resulting in a reduced stipend amount
- Institution notifies DVS if there are any discrepancies between their information and the SCHEV roster



# VMSDEP Stipend Resources



- Code of Virginia

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/23-7.4:1/>

- DVS website

<http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/veterans-benefits.shtml>

- SCHEV's VMSDEP Fact Sheet

<http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetVMSDEP.asp>



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